

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Lori Bonham, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Carl Molter, Kathy Sciarello

Excused: Dan Bush, Shirley Wydner

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act, by the Twp. Clerk on December 12, 2019.

Minutes of the March 2020 meeting were approved.

Bunn Valley Historic District

Larry LaFevre spoke with Dennis Bertland mainly regarding changing criterion in the draft nomination. Larry was referred to Bob Craig of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. After a review, it was determined that the criterion had not changed. Larry will follow up with Dennis Bertland to evaluate any additional updates and assess the work and costs required to finalize the documentation.

Frank Stull's History of Riegel Ridge Slides

Kathy Sciarello gave a positive review of the two virtual slide presentations of August 24th and October 12th. They were narrated by Carl Molter, and hosted by the Holland Free Public Library. The presentation is uploaded and available for viewing on YouTube. Larry reported that he received feedback from people who expressed how special it was growing up in the area and enjoying the facilities at Riegel Ridge.

Kathy also provided a review of the Queen murder virtual presentation of October 28th by historian Rick Epstein. A short video is also available for public viewing on YouTube.

Next Year:

- **2021 Budget** - Larry distributed a copy of the 2021 Historic Preservation Commission budget. The total annual budget is \$7,000, the same as last year. About \$5,700 was left over from 2020.
- **Meeting Dates/Reorganization Date** - Larry stated that the Holland Township Committee reorg meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5th. He proposed that the Historic Preservation Commission reorg meeting be scheduled for Friday, January 8th (pending approval by Ms. Cathy Miller).
- **HPC Commission Members** - Terms for all members, except Larry and Joe Becker, will expire in 2020. Commission members expressed willingness to renew their terms.

Other Business

Cyphers Farm - Larry provided status of the Cyphers Farm. After two years, the property has not been turned over to the Pohatcong History and Heritage Society due to issues with the deed. It is still being farmed, but the yard is not maintained. There are incidents of break-ins and illegal dumping. Complaints were filed with the local zoning officer.

Britton/Rapp/Phillips Barn - Larry reported that a new owner is being sought for this barn, located along the Delaware River in Holland Station. The original 7-bay barn dates back to about 1832. The dimensions are 87' long x 30' wide x 27' high. Cost to dismantle and move the barn is roughly estimated at \$30K to \$40K. There are two notches in one of the beams indicating heights of the 1903 and 1955 flood waters. Larry indicated that he would like to revisit the barn for additional pictures and documentation.

Cummins Farm - Larry mentioned that repairs to the Cummins house is progressing very well. Larry will schedule a second tour of the house at a later date.

Tory Den Tour - Will be scheduled at a later date when exact location can be determined.

Photographs of Riegel Ridge - Larry discussed a message he received from Mr. Jack Weiss on October 20th. Mr. Weiss offered to donate or lend his collection of original black and white prints of teams, events and landscapes of Riegel Ridge. Larry stated that if the originals are accepted, then they need to be preserved and stored in a safe place. At least, the photos should be scanned. Carl suggested selecting and curating choice photographs. Kathy recommended rotating the prints in and out of exhibit at Riegel Ridge, and creating an archival album. Larry will discuss with Jack Weiss and copy Kathy on future correspondence.

Bethany Ridge Lodge - Larry mentioned that Ms. Jan Rower took a tour of Bethany Ridge and inquired about the history. There is reference to the lodge in Frank Stull's slide presentation. Larry said Bethany Ridge will be put on the market soon by the Township, and proposed another tour before it is sold.

Gombosi Farm - Larry mentioned that the Gombosi Farm is under contract and scheduled to close on November 5th. He plans to reach out to the realtor and owner to discuss farmland preservation and ask for an opportunity to document the old house.

Show and Tell

- Map – 1947 Hunterdon County – Larry
- Brochure – Centennial Celebration, City of Easton PA, dated May 15, 1890 – Larry
- Two Photographs – 1957/1958 Frenchtown High School Band and Ms. Margaret Carpenter, school teacher – Joe

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7th at 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 PM